

REMARKS

These remarks and the accompanying amendments are responsive to the Office Action dated October 7, 2004 (hereinafter referred to as "the Office Action"), having a shortened statutory period for response that expires on January 7, 2005. At the time of the last examination, Claims 1-40 were pending for consideration. By this amendment, Claims 1-6, 9, 15, 17, 21, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33 and 34 are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, Claims 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 18-20, 22, 25-27, 30-32 and 35-40 will be pending for further consideration. Of these claims, Claims 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 18, 19, 22, 25, 30 and 35 are currently amended.

Section 2 of the Office Action rejects Claims 4, 6, 10, 12, 16-19, 24, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Due to cancellation of claims, the rejection remains only with respect to Claims 10, 12, 16, 18, 19 and 30. Each of these remaining rejected claims have been amended to specifically address the recitals of indefiniteness identified in Section 2 of the Office Action.

Section 4 of the Office Action rejects Claims 1-3, 5, 17, 23, 24, 28, 29 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States patent number 6,667,622 issued to Fifield et al. (the patent hereinafter referred to simply as "Fifield"). Each of these claims is cancelled herein thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Therefore, reconsideration of the claims and favorable action is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

- Application No. 10/637,840
- Amendment "A" dated January 7, 2005
- Reply to Office Action mailed October 7, 2004

Dated this 7th day of January, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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